

**Bureau of Home Furnishings and Thermal Insulation**

3485 Orange Grove Avenue  
North Highlands, California 95660  
(916) 574-2041, Fax (916) 574-2043

**Bureau Policy on the Source of Technical Bulletin 603 Burner**

The Technical Bulletin 603 mattress test requires that a specific dual-burner system be used to apply the flame insult to the tested sample. This burner system was developed at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) specifically to act as a surrogate for burning bedclothing on a mattress set and is referenced in the current Technical Bulletin 603 (TB 603) standard as the ignition source for the test fire.

In 2003, prior to finalization of the TB 603 standard, the Bureau received a letter from the Sleep Products Safety Council (SPSC), stating that in the interest of public safety the burner technology is public domain. Therefore, the design of this burner is "open-source," meaning that any company can supply the burner as long as the specific engineering features of the burner outlined in the TB 603 standard are built into the product. In addition, anyone may legally copy the NIST burner without any obligation to pay the SPSC or NIST a royalty or other fee for the right to do so.

It is the Bureau's policy that any vendor may supply this burner as long as these requirements are met. The Bureau will maintain a list of burner vendors simply as a service to laboratories wishing to perform the test and to the mattress industry. However the Bureau cannot endorse any specific vendor or its products or services.

November 2003